

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A007
TITLE: Establish Committee to Study Relationship of Episcopal Seminaries with General Convention, One Another and the Wider Church
PROPOSER: Committee to Study the Relationship of General Seminary & General Convention
TOPIC: Seminaries

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A001 Reform Seminary Training and Develop Transformative Encounters
2015-D075 Evaluate the Relationship with General Theological Seminary
2009-A191 Authorize a Task Force to Revise Formation Guidelines for Ordained Ministry
1991-A224 Direct the BTE to Convene a Consultation on the One Percent Resolution
1979-A106 Record Policy on Theological Education and Accredited Seminaries

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2012-A067 Convene Consultations on Ministry Education
2003-A120 Convene a Strategic Planning Committee for Theological Education
1991-A143 Study the Requirement that GTS Trustees Be Elected by the General Convention

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Committee to Study the Relationship of General Convention and General Theological Seminary](#), see pages 616-617.

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

A007 Establish Committee to Study Relationship of Episcopal Seminaries with General Convention, One Another and the Wider Church

Proposer	Committee to Study the Relationship of General Seminary & General Convention
Topic	Seminaries
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention authorize establishment of a committee to carry out an investigation related to the work detailed here. This committee would be empowered to study and make specific recommendations regarding the restructuring of the relationship between the General Convention and those leaders engaged in theological formation, including the Episcopal seminaries. Its work would also include:
 - 2 Exploring the sharing of resources among the seminaries
 - 3 Reviewing the structure and relationship of other judicatories and their seminaries (especially ELCA)
 - 4 Consulting with the Association of Theological Schools regarding accreditation
 - 5 Surveying Bishops and diocesan Commissions on Ministry to determine their needs for theological education
 - 6 Reviewing seminary budgets and curriculum
 - 7 Surveying the student bodies to determine size and diversity
 - 8 Considering the possibility of elected/appointed representation of the General Convention on seminary boards of trustees
 - 9 Providing funding from the General Convention budget to be allocated for the work of seminaries
 - 10 Exploring how and where theological education and formation for ordination are being pursued throughout the Episcopal Church beyond its accredited seminaries including the exploration and review of local and alternative formation programs
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- 11 Exploring/reviewing theological formation for lay leadership
- 12 The committee would report regularly to the Executive Council between conventions and submit a final report to the General Convention 2024. An Interim Report would be provided to General Convention in 2021.
- 13 The committee, appointed by the Presiding Officers, would be comprised of: two (2) bishops, two (2) priests/deacons, two (2) lay persons, one (1) dean of students/academic dean, one (1) seminary president, one (1) member of Executive Council and one (1) staff representative/consultant from the Episcopal Church.
- 14 Much of this committee's work would be carried out through online communications vehicles, however there would be periodic in person meetings. Seminary presidents/deans might meet in person to discuss strategies. Committee members might meet with the boards of Episcopal seminaries and various non-Episcopal seminaries. The committee may also convene a gathering of seminary representatives and students during the triennia.

EXPLANATION

Whereas, as we move into a time of evangelization and clarification in our branch of The Jesus Movement, having a coherent vision and mission for all seminaries will help strengthen the formation and education of lay and ordained leaders. And whereas a coherent vision assumes close working relationships with all seminaries so that we can appropriately steward all available resources to meet the needs of the Church in the 21st century, the Committee to Study the Relationship between General Theological Seminary and the General Convention recommends establishment of this committee.



Resolution Number: 2015-A001
Title: Reform Seminary Training and Develop Transformative Encounters
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urge Episcopal seminaries and the General Board of Examining Chaplains to work collectively in creating, nurturing, and developing a culture of collaboration among them that results in: new structures; new curricula; new degrees beyond the traditional MDiv; partnerships and practices on the academic, departmental, and inter-seminary levels; alternative assessment instruments to provide tangible, measurable evidence that seminary trained leaders (lay and ordained) have the spiritual formation, skill sets, and intellectual aptitude to engage the world and to transform and lead The Episcopal Church, looking beyond competency in the academic areas defined by canon; standards of accountability, reporting, and mutual ministry reviews at all levels; and Episcopal seminaries' reportage of their progress to Executive Council and to each succeeding General Convention; and be it further

Resolved, That Diocesan Councils and Commissions on Ministry, in collaboration with their Bishop, encourage and support diverse ways for ordained clergy to make a living inside and outside the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council study the issue of clergy compensation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society develop a network to help Episcopal congregations, including clergy, vestry, organist, musical, lay, and other liturgical leaders, to become skilled in creating, nurturing, and developing spaces and moments for spiritual encounters that transform lives and unjust structures; and to have partnerships and practices with other congregations to become excellent stewards of spiritual, financial, real estate, and community resources; and to report their progress and learning annually to their Diocesan Convention/Council and Bishop.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 456-457.



Resolution Number: 2015-D075
Title: Evaluate the Relationship with General Theological Seminary
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Presiding Officers appoint a committee of no more than 5 members, including one of the Trustees elected at the 78th General Convention, to evaluate the relationship between the General Convention and the General Theological Seminary to determine whether this relationship is mutually beneficial at this point in the life of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the committee report to the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church with recommended action, including the possibility of ending this relationship.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 455.



Resolution Number: 2009-A191
Title: Authorize a Task Force to Revise Formation Guidelines for Ordained Ministry
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to convene a task force to revise and develop guidelines and identify best practices for the formation, education and evaluation of ordained ministers; and be it further
Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development report their recommendations to the House of Bishops in the second year of the triennium, gain their input and recommend to the 77th General Convention guidelines and canonical changes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development consider for inclusion on the task force members of the Commission, the Council of Seminary Deans, deans of other seminaries, the House of Bishops Theological Education Committee, the General Board of Examining Chaplains and representatives of other formation programs; and be it further

Resolved, That a staff member from the Episcopal Church Center whose responsibility is the oversight of theological education be appointed to and serve as a resource to the task force; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$45,000 to implement this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), pp. 712-713.



Resolution Number: 1991-A224
Title: Direct the BTE to Convene a Consultation on the One Percent Resolution
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

*Resolved, That this General Convention direct the BTE to convene within this triennium representatives of the: (1) Ministry and (2) Theology Committees of the House of Bishops, (3) the Council of Seminary Deans, (4) the Council of Seminary Trustee Chairs, (5) the Faculty of the Episcopal Seminaries, (6) the Executive Council Staff appointed by the Presiding Bishop, and (7) the Church at large; to give expression to a covenanted relationship between the several Episcopal seminaries and the dioceses, parishes, and institutions of the Episcopal Church as called for in the 1982 1% Resolution and to address the 1991 BTE report, *The Care of Learning, on the Stewardship and Coordination of Resource for Theological Education* including but not limited to:*

- the seminaries' relationship to the Church's mission with particular attention to the vision of the role of theological education in that mission;
- issues of utilization and diversity;
- the design and development of special programs;
- lay theological education;
- present and future faculty development;
- ecumenical collaborations;
- common administrative services and reporting for accounting, financial management, scholarship forms, and data base.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 845.



Resolution Number: 1979-A106
Title: Record Policy on Theological Education and Accredited Seminaries
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this General Convention hereby records the following as its present conviction concerning the preparation for ordained ministry in this Church and the role of its accredited theological seminaries:

That these seminary communities represent a unique combination of intellectual vigor, of informed opportunities for shared reflection which bring together differing perspectives and backgrounds for theological formulations, and of a community setting for liturgical life and for priestly and diaconal formation;

That such a setting, as described above, possesses manifest advantages for the preparation for full-time stipendiary service in the ordained ministry;

That preparation for ordination to the special ministries provided under Title III, Canon 8 and 10, Section 10, may take place in diocesan programs;

That assistance by these seminaries and special diocesan programs to each other should be seen as an opportunity for a wider service to the Church in the area of theological education, and that these seminaries and programs should seek and welcome this mutual assistance;

That these seminaries must continue to be regarded as essential centers for theological reflection and for spiritual development for the whole Church;

and be it further

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, **That the Board for Theological Education bring together various agencies concerned with theological education of the Church at all levels to develop strategies for greater coordination and planning.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 1979* (New York: General Convention, 1980), p. C-73.